



Schools in session
See Page 1B.

Vol. 40, Issue 32

August 11, 2005

News

Construction fraud ...
Many members of the Fort Stewart community have been victims of contractors and builders who fail to comply with contract terms. Representatives from the Legal Assistance Office and the Army Community Service Consumer Advocate will be at Club Stewart from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m., Aug. 11 to address concerns and gather information to put an end to contractor fraud and abuse. Affected persons should bring pictures of faulty workmanship, copies of contracts and any other information that supports the claim. For more information, call Legal Assistance at 767-8809/8819.



Humanitarian mission ...
Soldiers hand out shoes, teddy bears and more. See story, Page 4A.



MOB graduation ...
Mobilization class will process troops for deployment. See story, Page 13A.



Failed attack ...
Soldiers stay vigilant and thwart car-bomb attack in Iraq. See story Page 18A.

Post Update

EFMP events ...
A Specilaized Training of Military parents workshop is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Aug. 30 and 31 at Club Stewart. The workshop is free and open to the public. Registration begins at 8 a.m. on the first day. ●●● The Exceptional family member support group meeting will be held from 6-7 p.m., Aug. 18 at the Family Readiness Center, Bldg. 87. ●●● For more information about either event, call Mavis Crowell at 767-5058/5059.

Hunter prefixes ...
The dialing prefixes for Hunter Army Airfield government phones will change Sept. 9. The new prefix — 315, will replace the current 352, 353, 692 and 303 prefixes. Defense Switched Network, family housing and commercial lines will not be affected. For more information, call 767-2055.



Catherine Caruso

Pfc. Craig Lamp, military police officer, 549th MP Co., helps Andy Sherrill try on military equipment during Hinesville's National Night Out at the Walmart parking lot Aug. 2.

MPs assist at Night Out

Catherine Caruso
Frontline Staff

Fort Stewart police turned out in force to support Hinesville's National Night Out event Aug. 2. Military police units and Defense Department police provided a patrol car, an uparmored humvee and other demonstrations for the community-wide event. At the tactical display, Akira Kelly test-drove the gunners hatch of a High Mobility, Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle, such as those the military police officers deployed with to Iraq. Kelly was careful not to aim the vehicle's .50-caliber machine gun at people. "I'm aiming at clouds," she said. "I think I could hit one." Not all guns are bad, Sgt. Brian Hayes, a military police officer with the 549th MP Company, said. "This is a tactical display. Where (we show how) we providing security for (Soldiers)," he said. Brothers Andy Sherrill and Tyler Ridgel tried on the Soldiers' individual protective equipment. "This stuff — it's G.I. Joe," their mom, Spc. Victoria Gaston, said. "They play with my stuff at home." Gaston is a supply specialist for the 3rd MP Battalion

Sherrill smiled up at her as he weaved under the weight of the vest and she laughed. He's tried her protective vest, but never with the bullet-proof plates before, she said. Dalton Wilkenson explored the inside of the patrol car, while Sgt. Thomas Didomenico, 179th Military Police Co., explained how a radar detector works. His father, Kenny Wilkenson, is a block coordinator for the neighborhood watch in Eagle's Landing. Another neighborhood watch member, Melanie Shumate, volunteered to be handcuffed at the DoD patrol car display. The Savannah Technical College nursing club was at the event to perform blood pressure checks and sell baked goods. She said she thought it would be fun, until she realized how uncomfortable the long arm of the law is when it grabs you by the wrists. "It hurts!" Shumate said. "I wish my kids could have seen that." The 22nd National Night Out campaign heightens crime prevention and safety awareness while bringing communities together with games, food and demonstrations along a law-enforcement theme. The Hinesville Police Department's Community Oriented Policing program hosted the event.

Incoming DENTAC commander pledges quality dental care

Laurie Kemp
Winn Public Affairs

The Fort Stewart Dental Activity welcomed a new commander in a Change of Command ceremony held at Marne Garden. Col. James E. Parker succeeded Col. Thomas G. Horning. Parker — no stranger to the Stewart DENTAC having served as deputy commander, clinic officer in charge and prosthodontic chief — said he is confident he will continue to lead the DENTAC onto great things. "I have some advantages — historical knowledge and first hand knowledge of the people and our strengths and weaknesses," he said. Parker said his priorities lay in Soldier professional development and preparing for the 3rd Infantry Division's return. "I'm expecting a portion of the Soldiers to return with dental problems that will need to be fixed, so my priority is to ensure we efficiently work dental care into troop training time," he said. Additionally, Parker said he intends to successfully fill the role of commander but he doesn't intend to give up patient care. "My love and desire is to treat patients," he said. "There is a lot that goes into being a commander, but I feel it is important to keep my hands in it so I understand the needs of our community." Parker was commissioned in the Medical Service Corps in 1976 after completing four years of ROTC at Wichita State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from the Baylor College of Dentistry in 1986. He completed the one-year General Practice Residency at Fort Riley, Kan., in 1987 and the Prosthodontic Residency at Fort Gordon, Ga., in 1994. He has served in a variety of assignments, including medical and non-medical positions. His medical positions include chief of patient administration for the U.S. Army Hospital in Japan,



Laurie Kemp

Col. James E. Parker assumes command of the Fort Stewart Dental Activity from Deputy Commander Col. Thomas G. Horning at a ceremony held at Marne Garden recently.

deputy commander and clinic OIC at Camp Zama, Japan and chief of prosthodontics at Fort Jackson, S.C. He was then selected as the prosthodontic mentor for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery and Endodontic residency programs at Fort Bragg, N.C. Parker is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontics, a member of the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics and a member of the Japanese Prosthodontic Society. He served more than three years as Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina in the College of Dentistry's Graduate Prosthodontic Department.

Town hall meeting covers schools, hurricane prep

Dental care, vehicle registration, quality of life also head discussion list.

Marc McCormick
Managing Editor

Col. John M. Kidd, garrison commander, recently held a town-hall forum at Fort Stewart where he and managers of various directorates on post briefed family members on the continuing development of Fort Stewart. Following the update, the panel answered questions from the audience. Kidd brought attention to the recent recognition Fort Stewart has received as the Army Community of Excellence, for the second year in a row, and designation for the Army Commander-in-Chief award. The ACOE comes with a \$2 million award. "This money will be used for more projects that benefit the community," Kidd said, "and soon, we will be soliciting ideas on how best to use it like we did last year." Kidd went on to address issues relating to the post schools and school programs in addition to the returning families. "Families are coming back in time for the new school year and we also will be having new units assigned to Stewart and these things have a great impact on our system and we want to help the families as much as possible," he said. Another item that he discussed in some detail was hurricane season, stressing that he wants everyone to be familiar with how to prepare in the event of a storm passing through here. He mentioned the hurricane guide that recently had been inserted in the post newspaper. In response to a question from a family member, he also spoke about the expansion of the horn alert system for Stewart. Finishing his opening remarks, Kidd also let the audience know he had spoken with Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division, and that the general reported that the Soldiers morale was high and they were looking forward to returning when their mission was accomplished. Kidd also said that the Soldiers were keeping busy with EU University (studying and furthering their education) and staying fit using the gym facilities.

See Town Hall Page 16A

Coalition, Iraqi ministry sign historic agreement

Sgt. Kevin Bromley
3/1 AD PAO

BAGHDAD — The children of Husseinia, a town north of Baghdad, play among heaps of trash, lakes of standing groundwater and open sewage. Several miles away in north Baghdad, representatives from the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Al-Istaklah District Advisory Council and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a charter Aug. 1 that will ensure the citizens and children of Husseinia have a brighter and healthier future. Husseinia is a settlement that took root in the agricultural region north of Baghdad in the 1980s. Unfortunately, the Baghdad storm drainage and waste treatment facilities were designed and built from the late 1960s to early 1970s. The population of Husseinia, now nearly 750,000, steadily increased. This influx of people from the towns surrounding Baghdad created a public works crisis situation that continues to this day. "If there is a situation below poor, we are underneath that. It's bad," said Nanjar Manshed the Al-Istaklah District delegate. In order to correct these health and public services problems, Coalition Forces and the MMPW decided a charter was needed to detail plans that will bring storm drainage projects, water-quality improvements and most importantly sewage treatment facilities. The Husseinia Charter is the first of its kind in the area and the projects that spring out of this agreement will improve the city's health and welfare. "It is a great project to help the people. We will have healthy water and less disease from the sewage all over the city," said Manshed.



Sgt. Kevin Bromley

Standing ground water and open sewage in Husseinia, Iraq, pose serious health hazards to the people who live there. The Husseinia Working Group Charter was signed into effect to improve and develop essential services such as drinking water, storm-drainage, and waste treatment facilities

See Agreement Page 16A

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Army implements virtual FRGs

Margaret McKenzie
Special to AFPS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — An Army program on the World Wide Web to support and improve how information is passed to families when Soldiers are deployed will make its debut, Oct. 1.

Army officials said they are trying to meet the needs of today's Army Expeditionary Force by improving the methods by which Soldiers communicate with their families.

"The virtual Family Readiness Group is designed to replicate the major components of FRGs, but in a virtual context," said Jay M. Burcham, chief of the Deployment and Mobilization Readiness division for the Family Programs directorate at U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

"This Web system is not just a Web site," he said. "Soldiers downrange in Iraq, Korea or wherever they are deployed will be able to communicate with families around the world by logging into this system. The virtual Family Readiness Group Web system will use technology to move today's FRGs into the 21st century to meet the demands of the Army's Expeditionary Force."

The initiative began in June 2004 when CFSC, in support of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, created a virtual FRG to reach out to families of Soldiers who would be deployed.

Most Soldiers deploy as individual replacements to Korea, which is basically a sta-

ble environment and communication with family members is routine, Burcham said.

Prior to the virtual FRG, the families' need for support was addressed by the 'waiting families' program, which the Army Community Service program operates.

Families also received support from their previous unit's physical FRG.

With the war on terrorism things changed. Soldiers were being deployed from Korea to Iraq, making communication with families difficult.

And families were reading and seeing stories on the news of bombs going off in areas where their Soldiers were.

"To ease the added stress placed on Soldiers' families, the 2nd Infantry Division provided up-to-date command information as well as the capability to download photos, send newsletters and organize families by location and unit," Burcham said. "This was a new concept to take the physical FRGs and turn them into a virtual context."

The development and fielding of the virtual FRG for Korea and Iraq was completed in five weeks by DefenseWeb Technologies in San Diego.

"The overall purpose of the virtual FRG supporting Soldiers deploying to Korea and Iraq was to provide a Web portal for official and unofficial information between the brigade, Soldiers and families," said Tonya Bowers, Army program manager at DefenseWeb Technologies.

The brigade now had the means to communicate with the

families of deployed Soldiers, Bowers said.

Follow-on development built functions to automate the capabilities of today's physical FRGs. These capabilities include instant messaging, forums and discussion groups, post cards, and file and document sharing.

The final phase of the program broadens what was developed for the 2nd Inf. Div., and provides training, outreach and support across all three components of the Army.

When released for use by units, it will feature a unit virtual FRG locator, a kids and teens area, a phone tree organization chart, emergency family plans, blogs, a training tracker and metrics for the unit commander to determine the state of family readiness, FRG leader forums content and more.

The site also will provide a single location for users to obtain news and updates relating to FRGs and their unit.

Users will be able to make updates to the phone tree and e-mail distribution list for rear detachment commanders and FRG leaders to use for mass communication to Soldiers and families.

Users of the site will first have to register and be authenticated by command-level administrators.

This feature is very important to unit commanders concerned with maintaining operational security of the information they provide to families, Burcham said.

"After they have been authenticated, users can go into the system, join their unit's vir-

tual FRG and update the information in their registration file, especially if they are changing duty stations," Bowers said.

"There are many benefits to using the virtual FRG system," he added. "Members of the Army Reserve and the National Guard see this as an answer to the communications issues they have to deal with because they are geographically dispersed. Families of mobilized individual ready reservists will be able to join the virtual FRG of the unit their Soldier is deployed with."

Members of the National Guard emphasize that they see this as a great way to enhance family readiness, Burcham said.

He said it gives them the capability to maintain an FRG and communicate with their FRG members on a year-round basis, rather than just during deployments.

"This virtual FRG allows them to stay organized throughout the year with a known place where people can log in and communicate without the worry and expense of bringing families into Reserve or Guard headquarters, which could be 100 miles away," Burcham said.

"It is not designed to replace the existing physical FRGs, but to enhance them," he said.

To support the upcoming start of the system, a waiting list area where units can sign up to establish a virtual FRG has been added to Web Site www.armyfrg.org.

Marne Voices

The Frontline

Readers respond to the question:

Do you use Army on-line services?



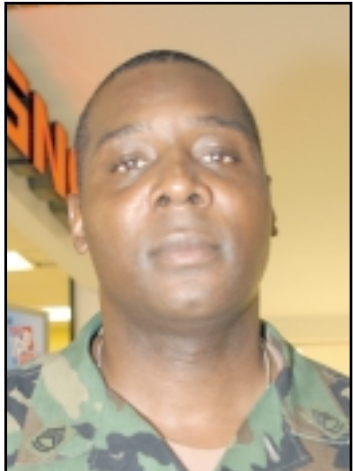
"Yes, it has easy access to information."

Chief Warrant Officer
Marty Ogburn, 1/351(TS) Regt.



"Yes, I use it for distance learning and occasionally to locate people."

Marlene Thornberry



"Yes, I use it to check and update records."

Sgt. 1st Class Darrel Warren,
A Co., 1/360th Inf.



"Yes, I use it to look for job opportunities and to keep abreast with what goes in my unit."

Staff Sgt. Steven Watson,
3220th GSU



"No, I didn't know they existed."

Sandra Birdwell



"Yes, to e-mail, use instant messenger and update my ASK key."

Spc. Marc Pilgrim,
2/504th Parachute Inf. Regt.

America Supports You: It's HOT to help troops

Steven Donald Smith
American FPS

WASHINGTON — According to many servicemembers stationed overseas, it's a great feeling to receive a care package, and it's especially nice when the package contains items that you personally requested.

In March, Kristen Maddox, a 21-year-old college student from Santa Ana, Calif., launched the nonprofit organization "Helping Our Troops" with that in mind. Her goal is to ship care packages that contain items based solely on troop requests.

"We don't send our favorite items, we send their favorite items," Maddox said.

HOT is made up of a small group of volunteers, mainly Maddox's friends and family, who have doggedly searched for a wide variety of items, including canned sardines, eye goggles and pool cues.

As soon as HOT receives a request from a servicemember, normally via e-mail, the volunteers immediately set out to fill the order, Maddox said. "Once we receive a request, we go shopping. In cases where the items are difficult to find, we continue shopping until we find them," she said.

Some of the requested items have indeed been somewhat difficult to find, but HOT has only failed to deliver on one item thus far.

"We could not find Yakisoba noodles anywhere. We called Asian markets and looked online, but we could not find any," Maddox said. "Other than that, we have been able to find everything, either in stores or online."

All of the items in the HOT care packages are donated or purchased with donated money, she said.

Maddox said the effort has also received a lot of support from

other Southern California organizations.

The American Legion of Newport Beach recently donated \$1,500. Sorooptimist International of Orange, an organization supporting women in management, awarded HOT the "Outstanding Service Award" at their annual awards dinner, which came with a donation of \$500 and the local Rotary Club has raised several thousand dollars in direct contributions and through events such as its Fourth of July celebration, she said.

Maddox got the idea to start the nonprofit organization after learning that a good friend was on his way back to Iraq. "I came up with the idea for HOT on my twenty-first birthday, the same day that my friend was deployed to Iraq for his third tour, leaving behind his six-month-old son," she said.

"It made me want to do something," she said. "I felt it was important to support our troops because they are the ones who are ready at a moment's notice to put their lives on the line to protect us."

Coincidentally, at the same time her friend was deployed, Maddox had been working on a school project about Operation Iraqi Freedom. She was struck by the fact that many of the troops making sacrifices overseas were her own age, she said.

"The reality that it's mostly my generation over there fighting and dying made me want to do more," she said. "They need to know that there are young people their age who care."

Maddox intends to broaden her work to include veterans outreach. "We have begun working with the veterans hospital in Long Beach in an effort to provide for veterans of all wars," she said.

"We owe our freedom throughout our country's history to the men and women who are willing to step up and fight for it. We should do our part to ensure they know how much we appreciate their sacrifices," she said.

Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SPC JAMES O. KINLOW**, 2/121 IN BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31313, contact 1LT Francisco J. Barroqueiro, HHC 1/121 IN BN, Winder, Ga. 30680, (678) 963-7410. (1)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **PFC JACQUES E. BRUNSON**, A Co 2-121 IN, 48th BCT, Valdosta, Ga. 31603, contact SSG Bobby Tippins, A Co. 2-121 IN BN, Valdosta, Ga. 31603, (229) 333-7841. (1)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SGT JOHN THOMAS**, 2-121 IN BN,

Albany, Ga. 31702, contact 2LT Collins, HHC 648th EN BN, Statesboro, Ga. 30461, (912) 212-2812. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **PV2 ERNESTO RODOLFO**, HHC, 4-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 3ID, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact CPT Rebecca Elliott, Rear Detachment, 4-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-4124. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SGT CHRISTOPHER J. TAYLOR**, B Btry, 1-41 FA BN, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact CPT Evelyn Fraley, BTB, DSB, 3ID, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-1840/7095. (2)

The Frontline

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Rangers add support positions

75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. — The 75th Ranger Regiment has a recently expanded list of military occupational specialties to include several positions in support functional areas.

Rangers are the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's light infantry unit.

They have been actively engaged in the Global War on Terrorism since October 2001. Rangers were among the first troops on the ground during the initial stages of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Today, they continue conducting missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Support personnel play a key role in maintaining unit readiness, explained Master Sgt. Mark Chance, senior regimental support non-commissioned officer.

"The regiment recognized the benefit of a complete support element organic to the unit," he said. "These Soldiers are an integral part of daily operations whether at home, deployed for training or deployed in theater."

The support positions are completely new so the Rangers are seeking motivated Soldiers to be part of their first generation of support personnel.

"We are looking for Soldiers to be a part of regimental history," Chance said. "The Soldiers who fill these positions will define the Ranger Regiment's support operations while simultaneously performing duties critical to continued mission success in support of the Global War on Terrorism."

Maintaining a qualified group of support Soldiers for a front-line war-fighting unit engaged in continuous combat operations requires knowing the latest in technology, tactics, techniques and procedures. This is why the regiment emphasizes ongoing training and education.

"The Rangers are resourced to develop exceptional combat proficiencies," Chance said. "This emphasis is not limited to the unit's infantry Soldiers."

Support Soldiers regularly have the opportunity to attend a variety of military and civilian schools relative to their respective MOS to enhance their combat readiness and personal abilities. "Everyone brings something to the fight and we ensure our Soldiers are trained to provide the high level of support this elite unit demands," he said.

Soldiers in the new positions will be permanently assigned to the regimental headquarters or one of three geographically dispersed battalions in Georgia and Washington.

Interested Soldiers may contact the regiment for more information. Initial entry Soldiers should call (706) 545-2617 or DSN 835-2617. Permanent party Soldiers should call (703) 325-5566 or DSN 221-5566.

Soldiers are encouraged to visit the U.S. Army Special Operations Command news service at Web Site www.news.soc.mil for up-to-date news and background information about the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Ranger Support MOS Positions

Enlisted

- 21H Construction Engineering Supervisor
- 21R Interior Electrician
- 21W Carpentry And Masonry Specialist
- 44B Metal Worker
- 45B Small Arms/Artillery Repairer
- 45K Armament Repairer
- 52C Utilities Equipment Repairer
- 52D Power-Generation Equipment Repairer
- 63B Light-Wheel Vehicle Mechanic
- 74D Chemical Operations Specialist
- 88M Motor Transport Operator
- 88N Transportation Management Coordinator
- 89B Ammunition Specialist
- 91J Medical Logistics Specialist
- 92A Automated Logistical Specialist
- 92F Petroleum Supply Specialist
- 92G Food Service Operations
- 92R Parachute Rigger
- 92Y Unit Supply Specialist
- 94F Special Electronic Devices Repairer
- 92W Water Treatment Specialist

Officer

- 88A Transportation Officer
- 91A Logistics Plans Officer
- 882A Mobility Officer
- 910A Ammunition Technician
- 915A Maintenance Technician
- 920A Property Accountability Officer
- 920B Supply Systems Technician
- 921A Airdrop Equipment Technician

ACOE 2005



Catherine Caruso

Another reason why ...

Congratulations to the 2005 Department of the Army Substance Abuse Prevention Program of the Year. The Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield ASAP supports active and reserve component units. This is the third consecutive year it has been named program of the year.

(Front row, from left) Kathy Waites, assistant biochemical testing coordinator; Tia Garrett, administrative assistant.

(Center, from left) Theodus Shannon, Hunter prevention coordinator; Abigail Mujica, alcohol and drug control officer for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

(Back row, from left) Donald Wright, installation biochemical testing coordinator, Hunter; Chakiris Moss, prevention coordinator/employee assistant program coordinator; Archie McNeill, installation biochemical testing coordinator; Chon Brown, assistant biochemical testing coordinator; Barry Graham, office coordinator.



Photos by Spc. Ben Brody

Soldiers from F Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, toss stuffed animals to children during a humanitarian aid mission in Tawaitha. Soldiers also fitted children with new shoes.

U.S. Soldiers hand out smiles to Tawaitha children



Capt. Charles Price helps an Iraqi girl into a new pair of shoes.

Spc. Ben Brody
2nd BCT Public Affairs

TAWAITHA, Iraq — Soldiers from F Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, brought smiles to Tawaitha children as they distributed hundreds of shoes and toys near a landfill.

The community of squatters live in the landfill located near the Rasheed Airfield.

They often suffer foot injuries caused by walking over sharp debris without shoes.

The F Co. troops set up a perimeter to secure the site.

F Co. operates in direct support of 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

After securing the area, they quickly began fitting children with sneakers.

"It's a great thing to come out and do some-

thing to raise the standard of living out here a bit," Capt. Charles Price, commander, F Co., 26th FSB, said.

"This area is all landfill, and bad guys drop bodies and explosives here all the time. It's a dangerous place to live," he said.

The mission was made possible from donations by church groups and family members at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, commander, 1st Bn., 9th FA, coordinated for clothing donations from Fort Stewart.

A church group in Pennsylvania also donated about 300 pairs of sneakers to support the effort.

Chaplain (Capt.) Charlie Lee, 1/9 FA, brought stuffed animals along on the mission.

They were a big hit with residents of all ages.

"This place reminds me somewhat of Korea after the war," Lee said.

"As a chaplain, I want to help share what we have with the neediest Iraqi people," he said.

Lee fitted several ecstatic children with running shoes and watched them dash off to show their families.

"This kind of thing builds good relationships and you can tell everyone really appreciates it," Lee said.

Although it was F Co.'s first purely humanitarian mission in Iraq, Soldiers said they were well prepared for the crowd that quickly gathered around the humvees.

"We never announce these things beforehand, which makes it safer for everyone," Staff Sgt Guillermo Blanco, F Co., 26th FSB, patrol noncommissioned officer in

charge, said. "These people here are just trying to survive and they don't have anything.

"It makes me feel great to see the little kids smile when they see our trucks coming," he said.

Blanco fitted children with shoes and helped keep the crowd orderly as Soldiers tossed water bottles, food rations and clothing from the cargo bed of a light medium tactical vehicle.

Soldiers also tossed teddy-bears off the bed of the LMTV.

Afterward, Price contemplated the long-term significance of the operation.

"Winning this country over to peace and democracy all starts with the kids," Price said.

"Ten years from now, these kids will be creating the future direction of Iraq," he said.



Staff Sgt. Suzanne Day



Army photo

Joint security in Iraq ...

Above: A Soldier from 48th BCT, leads the way during Operation Able Warrior in the early-morning hours of Aug. 4 in west Baghdad. Soldiers captured 41 suspected terrorists including three foreign fighters in the operation.

Left: Air Force Staff Sgt. James M. Richey Jr., 96th SFS, and a military working dog, search for an enemy weapons cache during a joint operation with Soldiers from the 203rd FSB in Aswad, Iraq.



Steve Hart

Respect ...

Spc. Jeffrey Zimmerman, a parachute rigger at the Hunter Parachute Rigging Facility, rakes leaves at the American Legion plot in Savannah's Bonaventure Cemetery. For the last two years, parachute riggers from Headquarters Command have helped to maintain the 175 gravesites. The plot was given to the American Legion in 1920 to be used by military veterans who have served in the Armed Forces. Soldiers work at the site on the last Friday of every month cutting and watering grass, raking leaves, weed-wacking and washing headstones.

Iraqi, Coalition Forces squelch terrorist attacks

48th BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Iraqi and Task Force Baghdad Soldiers responded to a coordinated terrorist attack with a quick reaction force of tanks, helicopters and ground troops, killing six of the attackers and capturing 12 more.

No U.S. forces were injured in the fight.

The terrorists launched the attack with mortar rounds and small-arms fire targeting an Iraqi Army post in south Baghdad.

Iraqi Soldiers returned fire while TFB attack helicopters rushed to the site and engaged the Anti-Iraqi Forces with rockets and gunfire.

Almost simultaneously, a suicide bomber drove a truck into a nearby Iraqi Army checkpoint. One Iraqi Soldier was killed in the explosion and another Iraqi Soldier was wounded. The driver of the truck was also killed.

"The checkpoint did what it was supposed to do. It stopped a terrorist from carrying out his plot to cause significant casualties and damage. So, in that regard, the checkpoint was a success and demonstrates Iraqi Security Forces' ability to defend against terrorist attacks," Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, TFB spokesperson, said.

U.S. tanks from the 48th BCT, arrived at the site of the explosion within minutes to help secure the area, while the Iraqi patrol provided medical assistance to the wounded Iraqi Soldier.

When another suicide car bomber tried to attack a third site in the area, one of the U.S. tanks fired and hit the car, killing the driver and causing the car bomb to explode prematurely. No one else was injured and no property was damaged in the failed terrorist attack.

Minutes later, terrorists in a fourth loca-

tion fired two rocket-propelled grenades and a mortar round at another Iraqi Army post in south Baghdad. None of the rounds caused any damage.

"I am absolutely proud of the strong determination shown by the Iraqi Army," said Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver, 48th BCT commander, said. "They are true patriots defending their homeland."

Over the next two hours, terrorists tried to re-group for another attack on each of the two Iraqi Army posts. The combined Iraqi and Coalition Forces defeated the terrorist attacks with gunfire and rockets from the air and small-arms fire on the ground.

"The enemy came to fight us with no success," Maj. Listen Edge, an operations officer, 48th BCT, said. "Instead, the Iraqi Army took the fight to them and succeeded."

Stewart/HAAF names Resource Management director

Resource Management Directorate

William V. Jeffers has been selected as the director of resource management.

"This selection is especially important due to the movement toward IMA, and the 3rd Infantry Division reset once the division redeploys," Paul A. Andreshak, Fort Stewart deputy garrison commander said.

The DRM's job is similar to that of a city chief financial officer.

The structure of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield resemble that of a city, with departments, or directorates, that run public works, logistics, training, emergency services etc.

"My goal is to make the directorates successful," Jeffers said. "The directorates are my customers. The directorates serve the Soldiers and their families, which makes Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield successful and ultimately the U.S. Army successful," he said.



Jeffers

Jeffers, a native of Hanahan, S.C., first came to Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield as a lieutenant colonel. He was the 3rd Infantry Division comptroller from April 2002 to July 2003 — seven of those months in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

He graduated from Clemson University with a bachelors degree in financial management, and later earned a masters degree in business administration from Western New England College in Massachussetts.

Jeffers began his career on active duty in August, 1985 with a commission in the Corps of Engineers. Transitioning to an office job where he could put his financial training to use made sense as he became older.

"When I was young and just out of college I wanted to see the world and be outside all the time turning earth and breaking ground. As I got older it became more appealing to be in an office environment," he said.

Jeffers lives in Richmond Hill, Ga. with his wife Jennifer and three children James, Marion and Joseph.

Soldiers build new barracks for Iraqi troops

Sgt. Andrew Miller
TFB Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — With the smell of sawdust hanging heavy in the air, Soldiers cut and hammer away at their latest project — turning a parking garage into barracks.

This complicated project and others like it are critical to the ongoing shift of responsibility from U.S. to Iraqi units.

The newly-converted barracks will soon be a home for Soldiers of the Iraqi Army.

"Anything we can do to get (Iraqi Security Forces) set so they can take on the responsibilities for their mission helps," said Lt. Col. Keith Landry, 92nd Engineer Battalion commander.

This is not the first project the 92nd Engineers have tackled in support of the Iraqi Security Forces. It is, however, significant. "This is probably the largest single project that we've worked on," said Landry.

The former garage will be divided into 20 large rooms, with a total capacity of more than 800

Soldiers, he added.

Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Stewart, B Co., noncommissioned officer in charge of the site, says her engineers are more than up to the task. The Soldiers began June 21 and plan to complete the transformation in just over a month, Stewart said.

To accomplish their mission, the engineers are building walls, running wires and fixing an existing drainage system. The carpenters, electricians and plumbers of the crew each face unique challenges with this project.

Spc. Michael Hasselbrick, an electrician with B Co., said Iraqi wiring is a little different than in the U.S.

"In the states, cables are labeled," Hasselbrick said. "Not here."

But Hasselbrick is lucky, he said, because his supervisor, Staff Sgt. Martin Clark, has experience with electrical work here from a previous tour of duty.

Accordingly, he was able to watch and learn.

Several Soldiers at the site said they value these kinds of

challenges.

"It's a good experience," Hasselbrick said. "You learn a lot when there are so many obstacles to overcome."

Supplying this massive project has been a challenge, although that job is now nearly complete.

"We've sent out several (large cargo trucks) and trailer-loads full of wood," Landry said, "and right now we're just waiting on the air conditioner units to finish the project up."

The Soldiers working on the project seem to be enjoying themselves as they work, despite the cruel heat. With all the sights, sounds and smells of a construction site in the U.S., it might be easy to concentrate on work and forget where the site lies on the map. As all the work adds up, an old parking garage begins to look like military barracks.

Whether they are building for their fellow U.S. servicemembers or for their Iraqi allies, Landry said, the 92nd Engineers love to get out and do the job.

"We're doing a lot of good things here," he said.



Sgt. Andrew Miller

Sgt. Ciro Romero and Pfc. Timothy Russo mark their next cut. Romero and Russo both serve with B Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion. More than a platoon of B Co. Soldiers are currently turning a parking garage into a barracks for Iraqi Army Soldiers.

Georgia General Assembly passes legislation, ID for voters

This year the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation (House Bill 244) reforming the state's election laws to make voting easy, fair and secure.

The bill reduces the number of acceptable forms of ID from 17 documents, which include utility bills and bank statements, to six forms of government-issued photo identification.

The newly created Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS), in addition to issuing drivers' licenses, will be responsible for issuing photo identification cards to Georgia voters through their Customer Service Centers.

Citizens who currently have no state issued form of photo identification, and seek a photo identification card solely for the purpose of voting will be issued one at no cost.

TO OBTAIN VOTER ID THE FOLLOWING MUST BE PROVIDED:

° Proof of identity (if never previously licensed or issued a Georgia identification card), such as a certified copy of the customer's birth

certificate or a military ID card.

The DDS cannot accept photocopies or faxes, so customers are reminded to bring their original documents with raised seal or certification seals (see below for acceptable forms of personal identification).

- Proof of residency, such as a utility bill or bank statement. Proof of citizenship, which for most customers is satisfied using a birth certificate issued by a U.S. state or territory, or immigration documentation (see below for acceptable proof of residency).
- Completion of an Affidavit of Eligibility containing the following:

1. I am indigent and cannot pay the fee for an identification card;
2. I desire an identification card in order to vote in a primary or election in Georgia;
3. I do not have any other form of identification that is acceptable under O.C.G.A. 21-2-417 for identification at the polls in order to

vote;

4. I am registered to vote in Georgia or I am applying to register to vote as part of my application for an identification card; and
5. I do not have a valid driver's license issued by the State of Georgia.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION:

- ° Original birth certificate (state issued)
 - ° Certified copy of birth certificate (with seal)
 - ° Certificate of birth registration
 - ° Certified copy of court records (adoption, name change or sex changes.)
 - ° Certified naturalization records
 - ° Immigration ID card
 - ° Valid passport
- (U.S. citizens must furnish proof of citizenship. Non-U.S. citizens must present proper INS documentation.)



Cpl. Jason Nolen, E Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, uses the Buffalo's robotic arm to inspect a metal box along a Baghdad road. Buffalo crewmembers praise the vehicle's reliability and safety. Nolen and his crew are tasked out to investigate possible roadside IEDs.

(Inset) Spc. Fred Cotten, E Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, scans for roadside bombs as he drives a Buffalo through the streets of Baghdad. The crew uses the Buffalo's large windows to scan for IEDs.

Photos by Spc. Ben Brody

Buffalo lumbers through streets, ferrets out IEDs

Spc. Ben Brody
2nd BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Looking like a creation from the TV show "Monster Garage," 1st Battalion, 64th Armor's Buffalo lumbers down the streets of Baghdad searching for improvised explosive devices.

The Buffalo stands far taller than a tank and boasts a robotic arm tipped with a pitchfork-like hand and a camera for seeing into hard-to-reach areas.

"We travel slowly along our routes, looking out the windows for anything suspicious," Spc. Fred Cotten, a driver with E

Company, 1/64 Armor, 2nd BCT, said.

"We know the routes like the backs of our hands.

"We're out there every day, so it's pretty obvious when something is out of place."

A departure from typical military vehicles, the Buffalo has large windows of armored glass that offer much better side visibility than humvees or armored personnel carriers.

The engineer company's Buffalo team spotted several IEDs in their old area of responsibility, and though they have not found one yet in their new sector, they boast about the

Buffalo's effectiveness.

"IEDs have never gone off in the areas we've swept," Cpl. Jason Nolen, E Co., Buffalo arm operator 1/64th Armor, said.

"Every time an IED explodes in our sector, it's on a route we didn't patrol that day," he said.

On a recent patrol, the Buffalo team inspected several bags in the street, and poked through piles of rubble on the shoulder, common hiding places for IEDs.

Using the hydraulic arm's electronic controller, Nolen guided the arm's sharp tines into a garbage bag and lifted it,

revealing garbage.

"There's so much trash on the roads, it's very time-consuming to clear all the pieces that could hide an explosive," Nolen said.

Soldiers in humvees travel with the Buffalo and pull security for the slow-moving convoy while Nolen and his crew investigate potential IEDs.

"We're out there looking primarily for IEDs, but anything that catches our eye, we'll investigate," Staff Sgt. Perre Echolz, E Co., 1/64 Armor, obstacle section sergeant, said. "Being in the lead vehicle, you've got to be a leader. You

can't be nervous at all."

Soldiers speak highly of the Buffalo's reliability and durability under fire.

"Every Buffalo we've heard of getting hit has rolled back to base under its own power," Cotten said. "It's tough as nails. Between driving either this or a tracked vehicle, I'd take the Buffalo, hands down."

The E Co. team picked up their Buffalo in April after receiving a class from 612th Engineers, an Ohio National Guard unit stationed in Baghdad.

"It was a good class. We learned how to identify an

IED, what to look for and where to look," Cotten said. "Since then, we've learned quite a bit on our own that is helping us to keep the roads ways safe."

Nolen said the group changes up their routes and departure times constantly to avoid setting patterns for potential ambushers to follow.

"We know when we go out and clear a route, we're responsible for the safety of our fellow Soldiers in the area," Nolen said.

"We go out every day and do what we can to keep the routes safe for our guys."

Soldier serves two combat tours — 36 years apart

Spc. Matthew Wester
3/1 AD Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — There are plenty of Soldiers here who have served two combat tours, but not many who served one of those tours in Vietnam.

Master Sgt. Lanie Vickers, operations noncommissioned officer A Company, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, that supports 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, is back in a war zone.

The last time he was in combat was 1969.

"Everyone says life is a big circle and I believe it," Vickers said.

He was drafted into the Army at 17, served 32 years total in active duty and Reserve units, and was called back from the Individual Ready Reserve to serve in Iraq this year.

"I got the bonus tour," he said. Vickers considers this deployment, "just one more adventure."

The Army has changed in many ways since Vickers began his military career as a special forces medic in 1968.

He said Soldiers in the field have more effective protection against enemy fire because of Kevlar helmets and individual body armor.

"The IBA is much better. The helmets are better today," he said. "The old steel helmets wouldn't stop a round, but I've got a lot of confidence in the Kevlar and the IBA."

Vickers said the food has definitely improved since the Vietnam era.

"(Meals-Ready-to-Eat) MREs are better than the old C rations. We developed a lot of names for the old C rations," he said.

Vickers said getting in touch with friends and family was tough back then. "I remember waiting for a phone for five hours in Da



Spc. Matthew Wester
Master Sgt. Lanie Vickers (left), A Co., 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, examines Spc. Rita Raymond's pistol.

Nang," he said.

Overall, Vickers thinks he is living more comfortably in this war zone than the jungles he patrolled in Vietnam.

"Compared to Vietnam, this is like luxury. You go do your mission and you come back to great food, an air-conditioned room and a shower," he said. "To me, it's like living in a luxury combat hotel."

Soldiers have also changed and Vickers believes that is a good thing.

"In the old draftee Army there were a lot of people who didn't want to be there. Today, everybody is here because they want to be," he said. "They've got better attitudes. The Soldier of today is a better Soldier."

For any Soldier, deploying to a combat zone is stressful. That is

something that hasn't changed over the years.

"I think the way you feel is pretty much the same," Vickers said. "You're in a strange place, always aware, always cautious and always on guard."

Tactical awareness is something he stresses to the younger Soldiers in A Co., who see Vickers as a mentor and valuable part of the unit.

"I've gone to him a lot with questions and stuff like that. He's helped me out numerous times," said Spc. Nicholas Kohl, A Co., public affairs specialist. "I look up to him a lot. He is like a fatherly figure."

Vickers assisted Kohl with getting accustomed to firing an M-4 rifle when the company was training to deploy to Iraq. His helpful hints improved Kohl's marksmanship, an essential soldiering skill.

"He is our operations sergeant, so we depend on him for a lot," Spc. Rita Raymond, supply specialist, A Co., said. "You feel a lot safer because he has a lot of combat experience."

"When we were training, we used him as a sounding board for different scenarios," Maj. Ana Christian, commander, A Co., said.

The troops also admire his work ethic.

"Not once did I see him go to the back of the (physical training) formation," Kohl said. "He would keep up with the rest of us."

"When we were out in the heat at Fort Bragg, he was out there running," Christian said. "He is definitely a 'lead by example' Soldier."

Vickers recognizes that his military career is winding down, and he pointed out an ironic similarity between the beginning and the end.

"In my draft notice in 1968 and my mobilization notice from 2005, the first sentence was the same, 'pursuant to presidential orders,'" he said.

He plans to stay in the IRR until he turns 60, and he knows that might mean another tour overseas.

130th Inf. Regiment Soldiers earn Combat Infantry Badges

Capt. Leyland C. Torres
2/130 Inf. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Nearly 30 Soldiers from Task Force 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 256th BCT, were awarded the Combat Infantry Badge for combat action in Baghdad.

The 28 Soldiers are assigned to the 2nd and 3rd platoons, B Company, 2-130 Inf., known as the "Blackhawks."

The National Guard unit is from Effingham, Ill., and has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for 18 months.

The CIB was established on Oct. 7, 1943 by the

Secretary of War.

The citation is awarded to infantry and special forces Soldiers in the rank of colonel and below who are engaged in actual ground combat with the enemy.

These Soldiers are the first to receive the award in the unit since World War II, when the Black Hawks served with distinction in the Pacific Theater of Operation.

The badges were awarded by Lt. Col. Mark C. Jackson, battalion commander, 2/130th Inf.

"I am extremely proud of these Soldiers and the work they are doing,"

Jackson said.

"They are making a difference for the people of Iraq and are placing themselves in harm's way on a daily basis in order to complete their mission."

The company commander, Capt. Eric Kampwerth, spoke to his Soldiers about the work they have accomplished.

He also cautioned them not to let their guard down and continue forward with the mission.

"To a man, they should all be proud, both of individual achievement and what the company has performed daily in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," he said.



Army photo

Lt. Col. Mark C. Jackson, battalion commander of 2/130th Inf., attached to the 256th BCT, pins a Combat Infantryman Badge on Sgt. 1st Class Timmy McNaught, B Co., 2/130th Inf.

Criminal Investigation Command seeks new Special Agents

USACIDC

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Command got its start during the Civil War. Its mission during that time in history was to instill military discipline to the Soldiers.

As the war continued, the mission shifted to enforcement of the draft law. It wasn't until the conclusion of the Civil War and into World War I that the Provost Marshal General Bureau made the decision to form the Military Police Corps and establish a much needed detective element within the corps.

In 1918 the Soldier detectives became part of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Military Police Corps. It took 53 years, but on Sept. 17, 1971 the Army Division became an Army Command. In honor of its roots, it remains known today as CID.

CID has the authority to investigate any felony crime, anywhere in the world if it affects the Army. The Fort Stewart CID office is responsible for the military installation and the surrounding areas with an extended area of responsibility, which includes the Southeastern part of Georgia and the Northeast part of Florida.

In the early years, CID wasn't as effective in investigating crime as it is today. Lack of training and experience made the agents ineffective. Today Soldiers who want to become CID agents and do not have law enforcement background, must do an internship for several months before applying to the program.

In most cases, before the Soldier attends the apprentice Special Agent Course, he will have at least a year of experience working with seasoned Special Agents.

If the Soldier already has law enforcement experience and meets the prerequisites, he can apply directly to the program without an internship.

Special Agents today have varied backgrounds and come from many different branches within the Army, bringing unique knowledge and life experiences.

Like anything new, the roles of the Soldier detectives we now call Special Agents, changed with the events. The division matured into a command and the needs of the Army continued to grow.

In order to insure those needs were met, CID grew and created different specialties within its command. Today the different investigative units each have their own unique missions.

The Protective Services Unit provides personal security, much like the U.S. Secret Service that protects the president. The Military Procurement Fraud Unit investigates criminal intervention of the logistics pipeline that may adversely impact upon combat readiness or effectiveness and frauds affecting the Army.

The Drug Suppression Team works to decrease the amount of drug trafficking within the military community. The General Crime Unit investigates felony offenses listed in the Manual for Courts Martial with punishment over a year and crimes against property valued over \$1,000.

The Economic Crime Unit investigates crimes where the loss is only to the Army. Examples of an economic crime are workman's compensation fraud, payroll fraud, travel fraud and IMPAC fraud.

The U.S. Army Crimes Records Center maintains all reports of investigations conducted by CID Special Agents world-wide.

Polygraph Examiners are CID Special Agents that have received specialized training.

Prosecutions would not be possible if it wasn't for the U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Laboratory.

CID recently moved the forensic laboratory from its World War II era warehouse, into a modern 88,662 square foot building. The building now has space for DNA analysis labs, evidence storage, firing range for ballistic testing, classrooms, conference halls and administrative offices.

CID/MP reserve units have been mobilized, demobilized and re-mobilized in the fight against terrorism. Reserve Special Agents are part of the USA CIDC, and when called to serve they work side by side with the active component. The reservist brings community quality to the work environment.

There are specific requirements that must be met before becoming part of the Army's elite investigative unit. Your chain-of-command can not keep you from submitting a packet to become a CID Special Agent.

If you have questions or think CID is a career path you want to take, contact the local CID office for more information.

THE HALO JUMP WASN'T THE HARD PART. KNOWING WHICH ARABIC DIALECT TO USE WHEN I LANDED WAS.

SPECIAL FORCES

For a Special Forces soldier, being highly trained isn't enough. The skills to communicate with people in their own language. It's as important for medical specialists as it is for weapons specialists. Whether the mission is providing guidance and leadership to indigenous people or doing strategic reconnaissance behind enemy lines, these soldiers cannot let the job go. I am AN ARMY OF ONE. And our lives can't be duplicated.

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U.S. ARMY

1/11th ACR destroys terror cell, find weapons, cash

Capt. Marc Pelini
1/11th ACR Public Affairs

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — In the 48 hours spanning Aug. 3 and 4, Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, conducted a series of raids to nab key planners of terrorist attacks and to seize weapons and bomb-making materials in



Sgt. Thomas Benoit
A Soldier with 1/11th ACR searches for weapons caches using a metal detector.

Abu Ghraib, a western province of Baghdad.

The unit is part of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, attached to the 3rd Infantry Division.

The Soldiers captured four suspected terrorists, discovered five weapons caches and confiscated more than \$2,000 in U.S. currency.

Beginning at 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 3, Soldiers from B Troop, 1/11th ACR searched five locations in the Khandari district.

There they detained one terrorist who positively identified three other members of his cell after he was captured.

The unit also unearthed two weapons caches shortly before midnight.

The first cache consisted of a mortar tube with more than 50 mortar rounds, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher with two grenades and a sighting device and a recoilless rifle with a tripod mount.

The Soldiers also found 100 feet of detonation cord, 100 blasting caps and a videotape.

Twenty minutes later, the U.S. Soldiers found another weapons cache which contained \$2,200 in U.S. currency, four hand grenades and a

cell phone wired to a bomb detonation device.

The four terror suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

The first detainee also told the U.S. Soldiers about the location of an already-emplaced roadside bomb.

A U.S. explosives ordnance disposal team located and destroyed the bomb.

Soldiers from 1/11th ACR carried out several missions to arrest terrorists and uncover their logistical bases in Abu Ghraib as part of Operation Thunder Cat, conducted by 256th BCT.

Since July, 1/11th ACR has uncovered more than five major cache sites and has arrested 28 terrorists working as part of terror cells conducting attacks against both Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces.

"The discovery of these caches and detainment of the individuals associated with it has dealt a serious blow to the terrorists operating in Abu Ghraib," said Maj. Brian Robertson, squadron executive officer. "This success is a direct result of the persistence and hard work of the troopers of Bravo Troop and 1/11th ACR."

Task Force Baghdad

Soldiers recon new routes

Spc. Ben Brody
2nd BCT Public Affairs

TAWAITHA, Iraq — Some units in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division are trading areas of operation in Baghdad, and for Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, that means they get to do what cavalymen do best — reconnaissance and scouting missions.

Troopers from B Troop, 3-7 Cav., scouted new routes in Tawaittha, gaining familiarity with their new area of operations.

"We're looking for any suspicious activity in the area and interviewing people to get a sense of the security situation here," said Staff Sgt. Zak Ingle, B Troop, 3-7 Cav., section sergeant.

"Talking to people of influence in town also gets you a good idea of what infrastructure projects are needed. Sewer, water and electricity are the main needs around here," he said.

Looking at a map, the area B Troop searched, appeared to be a desolate network of farmer's fields.

But the recon revealed a maze of dirt roads and collections of homes along a canal.

Soldiers on recon missions are also responsible for recording the locations of mosques and schools using global positioning systems, or "pluggers."

The information is used during mission planning to ensure the safety of residents.

"We definitely became familiar with

a lot of roads that aren't on the maps," Ingle said. "Recons are crucial to understanding the area. I like to know every nook and cranny of my area. If we have to run down some dirt path to engage a mortar team."

"I don't want to have to look at a map or a plugger and wonder where I am," Ingle said.

Driving armored humvees bearing the scars of previous attacks, the troopers examined a number of suspicious objects to ensure there were no improvised explosive devices on the route.

One crumbling building was spray-painted "UXO," a military acronym for unexploded ordnance.

Troopers found two deactivated mortar fuses inside.

"We look for IEDs, not just so we don't hit them, but so the next convoy doesn't either and so they don't injure any civilians," said Spc. Cory Fincher, a driver with B Troop, 3-7 Cav.

"We'll try and find the village leaders and talk to them about insurgents, but we'll also hand out some candy to the kids and let them know we're here to help," Fincher said.

As the convoy drove past homes in the dusty fields, children waved and held their thumbs up and farmers cheerfully let the troopers look through their fields.

"I like being out here in the country, going down roads no one has gone down before," Ingle said. "It's great doing what we're trained to do. Recon is what every cav scout loves best."

ASK THE JUDGE

BRINGING FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE UNITED STATES

Maj. Kathy Giraitis
JAG Office

If you are a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident (“green card” holder), you are allowed to petition the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS, formerly I.N.S.) to request to sponsor certain relatives to come to the United States.

There are different categories of relatives and different waiting times apply. This article explains the basics of petitioning for your relative to come to the United States.

For Soldiers and family members, your Legal Assistance Office can assist you by explaining and guiding you

through this process.

United States Citizens

If you are a U.S. citizen, you may petition for the following relatives:

- Spouse
- Minor children (under 21)
- Parents
- Unmarried adult children (21 and over)
- Married adult children
- Siblings (brothers and sisters)

Lawful Permanent Residents

If you are a lawful permanent resident, you may only petition for the following relatives (note that a lawful permanent resident cannot petition for as many relatives as a citizen)—

- Spouse
- Minor children (under 21)
- Unmarried adult children (21 and over)

Spouses, minor children and parents of U.S. citizens are called “immediate relatives” under immigration law because there are no numerical quotas limiting the number of immigrants in these categories.

That means once the petition is filed and approved, there is no waiting period for obtaining the immigrant visa for your relative.

For the other relatives listed above—adult children and siblings of U.S. citizens, and spouses and children of permanent residents—there are

numerical quotas and significant waiting periods, usually of many years, apply.

Petition and Visa Processing

In order to begin the process of bringing your family member to the U.S., the citizen-sponsor (or permanent resident-sponsor) must file a “Petition for Alien Relative” (Form I-130) with USCIS for each relative. The current fee for filing this petition is \$185.

The petition must be filed with documents showing that the sponsor is a U.S. citizen (such as a birth certificate, U.S. passport, or naturalization certificate) or permanent resident (copy of “green card”), as well as documents proving the relationship.

For spouses, this would be a copy of the marriage certificate; for children, a copy of the birth certificate; for parents, a copy of the sponsor’s birth certificate.

Once the I-130 petition is approved by USCIS, then the U.S. State Department must issue an immigrant visa to your relative.

Remember, in categories other than the spouse or minor child of a U.S. citizen, there is a year-long waiting period.

Visa processing occurs at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad.

The immigrant visa application (Form DS-230) requires an additional fee—currently \$335. An issuance fee

is sometimes also required.

The visa is issued at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad. Your relative will enter the U.S. on this visa, and will be considered a lawful permanent resident starting on the date of entry. He will receive her “green card” soon afterwards.

Besides being related to you (the U.S. citizen or permanent resident), in order to be admitted to the United States, your relative must be otherwise admissible.

There are several “disqualifiers”—such as commission of certain crimes, health problems, and security issues—that may prevent your relative from being admitted.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Criminal trespass.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Civilian, 37-year-old male.
- **Charge:** Driving while license suspended, defective equipment.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 2nd BDE.
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property, failure to obey lawful order or regulation.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Criminal trespass, giving false name, address, or birth date.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Improper backing.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Failure to obey general order.
- **Location:** Hunter.



- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male separate unit.
- **Charge:** Disorderly conduct.
- **Location:** Savannah.

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Driving while license is suspended, no insurance, failure to wear seatbelt.
- **Location:** Hunter.

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, separate unit.

- **Charge:** Driving while license suspended.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Civilian, 24-year-old male.
- **Charge:** Criminal trespassing.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 28-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Carrying a concealed weapon, failure to obey general order or regulation, open container.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 33-year-old male 4th BDE.
- **Charge:** Possession and distribution of child pornography, indecent acts or liberties with a child, false official statement, obstruction of justice.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Civilian, 30-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Failure to obey traffic control device.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

- **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.

Courts-Martial

General Courts-Martial

United States v. PFC Steven Desormeaux.

On 8 August, 2005, the military judge sitting at General Court-Martial, convicted PFC Steven Desormeaux, 4-64 AR (Rear), of one specification of Article 87, Missing Movement by Design. The judge sentenced PFC Desormeaux to be reduced to the grade of Private (E-1), to be confined for nine months, and to be discharged from the service with a Dishonorable Discharge.

Mobilization class helps make deployment smoother

Pfc. Giancarlo Casem
50th Public Affairs Det.

With about 46,500 Soldiers processed through the Mobilization and Readiness Complex, Fort Stewart is the largest and most effective power projection platform east of the Mississippi River. And it is just getting better.

A Mobilization and Demobilization class of 26 Soldiers and eight civilians graduated at the MRC here, Aug. 5.

The MRC is responsible for processing the thousands of Army National Guard and Reserve Soldiers prior to deployment.

The course is part of what makes Fort Stewart the PPP of choice, Roy Lintz, MRC chief, said.

“The course ensures that Soldiers understand the mobilization process,” Lt. Col. Danny Herron, MOB course instructor, said.

Herron is an instructor from the transportation school at Fort Eustice, Va. He was invited to teach the course to the Soldiers and civilian workers of the 3220th Garrison Support Unit from West Palm Beach, Fla.

“This was the first time we had an instructor come down,” Lintz said. “It is much more cost effective to send an instructor down here than it is to send a whole class up there.”

Lintz intends to set this course as a precedent. He plans on inviting another instructor to teach when it is time for the 3220th GSU to return home after their one-year rotation at the Fort Stewart MRC and a new unit takes their place.

Part of the MRC’s mission is to ensure that Soldiers are trained and properly equipped before being sent to their theater of operations, Lintz said.

“We are the verifying officials to make sure the Soldiers’ medical, dental and optical checks are done,” he said. “We also look at legal issues, wills and make sure life insurance policies are up to date.”

Besides assisting National Guard and Reserve units with mobilization and demobilization, the MRC also assists the 3rd Infantry Division with their Soldier Readiness Center process.

The two-week course covered many topics helping Soldiers and civilians alike improve their decision-making skills. Course material covered topics like getting a clearance from proper authorities.

Herron went into detail concerning strategic mobility, deployment and joint operations planning.

“The amount of information is overpowering,” Herron said. “It (the course) is just the tip of the iceberg and it lays a good foundation.”

Herron instructs other classes at the transportation school regarding tactical troop movement.

The students said they learned a lot from the course.

“The course gave me a lot of insight into mobilization and how it runs,” Sgt. Shalonda Bouie, 3220th GSU, said. “There was a lot of information to try and remember.”

Students said that the amount of information was overwhelming.

“It was very challenging,” Maj. Brian Koziol, actions officer 3220th GSU, said. “The course was non-stop and fully-packed from day one to the final exam.”

With the training that the students received, they will be able to



Photos by Pfc. Giancarlo Casem

Col. John Kidd, garrison commander, Fort Stewart, hands a certificate to Miguel Cruz, chief, Soldier Readiness Center while Lt. Col. Danny Herron calls out graduates’ names during the Mobilization class graduation ceremony, Aug. 5.

assist deploying Soldiers better, Herron said.

“From the course they will be able to extend their knowledge to Soldiers being deployed,” he said. “They will be able to assist installation-level units and enhance the process.”

The importance of the class was paramount to the students in their understanding of the mobilization process.

“It is important to know the complete process, from the president down to the Soldier,” Miguel Cruz, Soldier Readiness Center chief, said.

“It is important to understand how mobilization works so we can make sure Soldiers are taken care of and we also have to look at family support groups. This makes the process smoother for them and their families,” he said.

Herron’s rapport with his class was very evident and also benefited his class’ success.

“It has been a sincere joy to come to Fort Stewart and support an outstanding unit like the 3220th,” he said.

During their graduation ceremony, the students received a visit from Col. John Kidd, garrison commander, Fort Stewart.

“This is an important event for us, it is important for the country,” Kidd said to the class. “I appreciate your hard work.”



Lt. Col. Danny Herron, course instructor, sports a baseball cap given to him as a gift from his class during graduation.

3ID IN BRIEF

Hunter

Home School Workshop

Military parents who home school their children are invited to attend a work shop, at 5 p.m., Aug. 24, in ACS Bldg. 1286.

Guest speakers will address various concerns and issues. Free childcare is provided, in addition to free dinner for participants. If you wish to attend, contact Barbara Jenkin at 352-6586 or e-mail her at barbara.jenkin@stewart.army.mil.

Marne Chapel Classes

Scrap Booking Bible Study (facilitated by Lamuir Base), 6 p.m., Friday and every other Friday.

Financial Peace University Workshop (facilitated by Isabelle Harmon), 13-week course begins 6:30 p.m., Sept. 13.

Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) Bible Study, (facilitated by Isabelle Harmon), 6-week course begins Aug. 18. Topic is "The Frazzled Female."

Hunter Education Center

The Hunter Education Center is not closed; however, counseling and administrative staff will service Hunter Soldiers and their adult family members from Fort Stewart.

The Hunter Army Learning Center, located in Rm. 22 of the Hunter Education Center is open daily and equipped with computers for your use.

Send counseling questions to: counselor@stewart.army.mil and eArmyU assistance questions to Web Site earmyu@stewart.army.mil.

Active duty Soldiers can get information about Army Tuition Assistance for on-post schools (CTC, ERAU, Columbia and Webster University) from the representatives in Building 1290. For off-post schools, go to: www.stewart.army.mil.

Type "tuition assistance" in the keyword search link and carefully follow instructions.

An education counselor is available on Wednesday, Rm. 13, for situations that cannot be handled by phone or internet.

Free Chiropractic services

Drs. Stephen Gosnell and Liliana Martinez of the Chiropractic Plus Holistic Center (8805 White Bluff Rd. in Savannah), are offering free chiropractic services to spouses and children of deployed Soldiers during deployment.

Spanish-speaking family members are also welcome.

For eligibility, bring papers to verify spouse's deployment and two cans of food for people or pets to donate to the Second Harvest or the Humane Society.

For more information, call Caroline at 927-6633.

Hunter Lanes

Come bowl and have lunch, which includes the best cheeseburger in town, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday at Hunter Lanes.

Single Soldiers Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Saturdays, Bldg. 129.

Hunter Club Specials

Hunter Club serves lunch from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. daily. Order from the menu, or get the \$6.50 daily special. Call 353-7923 for information.

For more information, call 353-2403.

Telephone Prefix Change

The hospital telephone and fax number prefix has changed from 370 to 435.

Staying Healthy Classes

This class offers strategies for staying healthy. Upon completion of the class, individuals will be given an over-the-counter medication pharmacy card for use at Winn and Tuttle.

The next class at Tuttle is 10 - 11 a.m., Aug. 25.

To register, call Community Health Nursing at 435-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.

Ready to Quit Class

If you're interested in quitting tobacco use, walk-in to a one hour Ready to Quit class. You can register

for the four-week Tobacco Use Cessation program during this class or pick-up self-help materials to quit on your own.

Ready to Quit is a prerequisite to the Tobacco Use Cessation program. The next class at Winn is 11 a.m. - noon, Aug. 24. The next Tuttle class is 11 a.m. - noon, Aug. 24.

For more information, call Community Health Nursing at 435-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.

ASAP

The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Army Substance Abuse Program offers individual and group counseling services for adults with alcohol or drug abuse problems.

This program is offered to family members over the age of 18, active-duty Soldiers, retirees and Department of Defense employees.

The Fort Stewart office is open 7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information, call 767-5265.

The Hunter office is open 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday and Friday.

For more information, call 352-5236.

Tuttle closed for training

All services at Tuttle, including the pharmacy, are closed 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. every Thursday for training.

Volunteer Orientation

The next volunteer orientation at Winn will be held Aug. 11 from 9 - 11 a.m. in

Winn's Patriot Auditorium.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, call 435-6903 or send an e-mail to brigitte.roberts@se.amedd.army.mil

Diabetic Education Class

This two-day class discusses health and lifestyles for people with diabetes.

Guest speakers include nutritionists, podiatrists, pharmacists, physical therapists and nurse practitioners. The next class will be held 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Aug. 16 and 23 in the Patient Education Center at Winn.

To register, call 435-5071.

Fort Stewart Blood Drive

Thursday, Sept. 1st

7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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Ft. Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Morale, Welfare and Recreation



Dinner and A Movie at Club Stewart

Friday, 12 Aug., 6pm
(Toy Story)

Adults \$9.95, Children
9-12 eat for half price, Under 9 eat for FREE
Call 368-2212

Taylors Creek Golf Course

Offers R&R Special for Deployed Soldiers

Soldiers coming home on R & R leave can enjoy a \$99 special. This entitles soldiers to unlimited golf with cart for the duration of the Soldier's R & R. Present leave orders to purchase R & R pass. Call 767-2370 for info.



Marne Call at Club Stewart

Every Friday, 5-9pm

Karaoke, Food and Fun. Bring your friends and step up to the mic. Show us your talent or just relax.
Call 368-2212 for Info.

Free Dance Lessons

1st Wednesday of each month, 7-9 pm at Club Stewart

Next date is 7 Sep; learn the Rumba and Cha Cha

3rd Wednesday of each month, 7-9 pm at Hunter Gym

Next date is 21 Sep; learn the Rumba and East Coast Swing

Call 767-6212 for more Info.

Jordan Fitness Center

B.E.A.T. High Intensity Aerobic Training
Every Friday, 07:30-08:30am

Regular Aerobic Training,

Mon-Fri, 9am & 4:30pm & Sat, 9 am

Call Jake Battle for more info 767-3033



Marne Day Golf Scramble

Thursday, 25 Aug, sign in 11am, Taylors Creek Golf Course
Shotgun at noon, members \$20 and non \$25
Call 767-2370 for Info.

'Military Idol' begins search

Tim Hipps

Amer. Forces Press Service

The first round of "Military Idol" competition began this week on U.S. Army installations around the world.

The program, based on Fox Television's "American Idol" series, will select the inaugural Military Idol after a final week of singing competition Oct. 17 through 23 at Fort Gordon, Ga.

To reach the finals, military vocalists must first win a competition on one of 36 installations. Depending on the number of local competitors, that process could take from one to eight weeks, competition officials said.

The Military Idol program is the brainchild of Coleen Amstein, who works in business programs for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, and Victor Hurtado, artistic director for the U.S. Army Soldier Show, one of several programs offered by Army Entertainment Division.

Army wide finals prizes include \$1,000 to the winner, who Hurtado hopes will become an ambassador for Army entertainment. "If they can represent the Army in a positive way with something that's exceptional, it just reflects on the Army as a whole," he said.

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Maintenance section keeps tanks rolling through Iraq

Sgt. David Bill
48th BCT Public Affairs

MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq — In the sweltering heat in central Iraq tools get so hot to the touch that they are put in ice chests to cool off.

Yet, Task Force Roughrider's maintenance team keeps the vehicles rolling so Soldiers can continue the mission.

"Keeping the vehicles on the road is our biggest challenge," Staff Sgt. Steve Hullett, A Company, 1st Battalion, 108th Armor Regiment, 48th BCT, said.

"We work on everything in the area to include Iraqi vehicles," he said.

"In the humidity of Fort Stewart, we always had trouble with the turret, but in the heat of Iraq, it has been the hull" Sgt. 1st Class Phil Padgett, motor sergeant, A Co, said.

Working in the motor pool on the M1A1 tanks and humvees, where there is little or no shade and everything gets extremely hot before noon, is a tough environment.

Sometimes a vehicle comes to the maintenance bay or motor pool with a mechanical problem, having just completed an all-night mission

The team aims to have it ready for the next day's mission.

"It's personal pride when you can see a vehicle you've

worked on overnight roll out on time the next day," Hullett said.

On this particular day, Hullett and Padgett were focused on two M1A1s with very different problems.

One tank had a hydraulics problem, the other tank had an intermittent electrical problem.

The unit was short mechanics, so the two NCOs tackled them both.

Working together, they began to work on the hydraulic problem.

They deduced from the tank commander's description of — "I just heard a ping and then everything quit working," — that the main hydraulic pump was the culprit.

That quick diagnosis comes from their years of experience.

As the two NCOs worked through the heat and cramped space of the engine compartment, they tightened a loose fitting on the pump.

When that did not solve the problem, they deduced the pump had burned up and replacing it was the best option.

Padgett went to work on the electrical problem in the other tank.

Hullett went to work removing the pump from the gear box.

Once removed, Hullett found the real problem: the drive shaft on the hydraulic pump that goes into the gear

box had sheared off.

While these two tanks were being worked on, close by a tank from Troop E, 108th Armor Regiment, was having its "pack pulled," which means removing the engine and transmission.

This can take three properly-trained Soldiers less than an hour to do.

"The engine is probably blown," Spc. Sherod Morrison, said.

"Preventive maintenance checks and services would catch many of the problems that are brought to the maintenance teams.

"We're just fixing them so they can continue the mission,"

he said.


Hullett said his team is "trying to conduct services on vehicles as they come in for other problems to try and keep up."

This would include checking or replacing air filters, tracks, and roadwheels.

"These guys are really great. Parts are flowing and vehicles are getting fixed," Capt. Michael Esola, battalion maintenance officer, said.

As the Soldiers sweat and turn wrenches, their supervisors are praising the extraordinary behind-the-scenes work to keep the vehicles of the 108th Armor operational.

As Padgett said, "It's not like Jiffy Lube here."






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Senior Master Sgt. Kim M. Allain

Teamwork...

Soldiers from the 15th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi troops conduct a counterinsurgency operation near Samarra. Iraqi and U.S. troops work together to stifle insurgent attacks through out Iraq.



Photos by Sgt. Andrew Miller

Terrorist car bomb attack fails

2nd BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — A terrorist failed to cause significant U.S. casualties or damage in a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack in east Baghdad.

Two U.S. Soldiers and one Iraqi civilian sustained minor wounds from the attack.

The vehicle, described by Soldiers on the scene as a Volkswagen van, approached the halted convoy of 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd BCT.

Soldiers from 1/9 FA were investigating a tip from a local Iraqi about a terrorist in the area who was associated with a July vehicle bomb attack at the same location that killed one U.S. Soldier and 24 Iraqi children.

While they were moving in to detain the suspected terrorist, the bomb detonated.

"(I was) 15 to 20 feet from the explosion," Sgt. Eric Hollis, F Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, attached to 1/9 FA, said. "We were standing right there and nothing hit us."

At the time of the explosion, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd BCT in a nearby observation tower, noticed two suspected terrorists in a vehicle over-watching the attack. 1st Bn., 64th Armor dispatched a quick-reaction force that detained the men.

Additionally, a 155-millimeter artillery round was discovered near the VBIED attack site.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called in to perform a controlled detonation.

The VBIED attack also failed to deter the Task Force Baghdad Soldiers from their original mission. Soon after the attack, they found and detained the terrorist for whom they were looking.



U.S. Soldiers search debris caused by a car bomb attack in east Baghdad. Iraqi policemen and U.S. Soldiers secured the area moments after the bombing. The attack wounded a local resident who was treated by U.S. medics and then taken to a nearby hospital. Two U.S. Soldiers suffered minor injuries and were treated on the scene. The driver was killed. The attack came while a U.S. civil affairs team was investigating a car bomb that exploded just a few feet away in July, killing one U.S. Soldier and 24 Iraqi children.



Another day...
Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, search a house where weapons and contraband are suspected of being stored, near Baqubah, Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Suzanne Day

Clinic trained for the routine, prepared for the unexpected

Spc. Matthew Wester
3/1 AD Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — "You never know what is going to roll up to the door," said Capt. Jacqueline Graul, brigade nurse for 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Graul is part of the staff at "Cobra" Clinic, run by C Company, 125th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, which provides for the medical needs of Soldiers at Camp Taji.

The clinic has a very diverse mission. The staff conducts morning and evening sick calls; supports explosive ordnance teams and provides medics at the battalion and company levels within the brigade, said Capt. Michelle Auck, physician's assistant, C Co.

It provides all the services of a battalion aid station plus lab, dental, x-ray and trauma services, said Capt. Peter Ramos, commander, C Co.

The clinic is equipped with a trauma room, which can be set up quickly to treat emergency cases, and examination rooms used for private patient consultation and routine medical examinations.

"The bulk of our mission has been sick call," he said. "We have had some trauma. Thankfully, it hasn't been much."

One trauma episode recently put the Soldiers at the clinic to the test, when they treated and stabilized three Soldiers injured in a bomb blast. The staff was training for the same kind of incident that morning.

The shift from everyday troop medical clinic duties to trauma care happened quickly as the medical providers put their training into action.

"It was an adrenaline rush," Auck said. "All the training came together, and everybody knew what they were doing."

When trauma cases come in, teams are assigned to deal with each patient. The members of the teams have specific responsibilities during treatment and stabilization.

"Everybody on the trauma team has a role and prepares in advance of the casualty" said Dr. (Maj.) Gregory Martin, clinic physician, C Co.

Martin explained that one medic is in charge of giving the casualty oxygen and stabilizing the head, another cuts off clothing over

wounds and looks for extremity injuries, and a third monitors vital signs, while the physician does an overall assessment of the patient.

Once the trauma teams go to work, they are all business.

"You don't get a second chance with a real casualty," Graul, a veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom I, said. "All your training is on the line."

"There is a change in mood in the clinic when multiple trauma cases come in," Martin said.

"Everybody feels a little anxious, but we use that anxiety to help us focus," he said.

That focus paid off for the wounded Soldiers. They were successfully treated, stabilized and sent to a medical facility in Balad for further treatment.

After the event, the staff gathered to reflect and review things they did well and highlight areas that needed to be improved.

Ramos said this meeting gave the medical practitioners a chance to talk in detail about how to improve certain procedures and practices.

It also gave everyone involved a forum to talk about how they felt about the experience.